

Eastern Region Public Affairs, 2714 N. Mayfair, Spokane, WA 99207

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: March 17, 2004
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SR 127 paving work set to start

Contractor crews will begin work on Monday, April 5th on a section of State Route 127 in south Whitman County. The work will be underway from the Snake River Bridge heading north on State Route 127 to Mile Post 18, which is located approximately 1.5 miles south of the intersection of Big Alkali Road and State Route 127.

This resurfacing project is a part of the Department's pavement preservation program and will provide for a Modified Chip Seal placed underneath a full width 2 inch overlay of Hot Mix Asphalt Pavement.

Another component of the job consists of widening the existing Central Ferry Port entrance from an existing width of 24 ft to 32 ft. This modification will allow for easier movement by two semi tractor/trailer rigs at the same time. New guardrail will be placed in this area. This portion of the work is a partnership with the WSDOT, Whitman County, and the Port of Whitman County.

Placement of construction signs, guardrail, and other items of work will commence the week of April 5th. Roadway widening at the Central Ferry entrance will begin on the 15th of April and take about a week. Guardrail and shoulder work will also take place along the highway for the month of April. This work will be at various locations with flaggers directing one-lane traffic with minor delays expected.

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Paving operations will commence in late April with the contractor first completing various sections of pavement repair that will require the contractor to grind out the existing asphalt and replace it with new asphalt. When the pavement repair work is completed the contractor will then begin placement of the final layer of asphalt. This work will take approximately two weeks to complete. Paving work can be expected to last from dawn to dusk with traffic being controlled by flaggers and a pilot car. Delays of up to 15 minutes can be expected.

After the paving operations are completed it is anticipated that several subcontractors will commence work placing guardrail, signage, striping, and recessed pavement markings throughout the project. This work will involve several sections of roadway controlled by flaggers and possibly a pilot car. Minor delays can be expected for this work.

All work on this project is scheduled to be complete by the end of May. As always, paving work is dependent on the weather. Wet, cool conditions may cause delays to the paving operations on this project.

Traffic control on this project will be very critical with the high volume of truck traffic and the steepness of the grades on this section of roadway. The WSDOT and the contractor will attempt to keep the pilot lines as short as possible to ensure short delays. Prior experience however has shown that starting and stopping large semi trucks on these types of grades may be unsafe and longer delays may result due to having to stop traffic on flatter ground. Motorist and worker safety is always our number one concern for the Department and the contractor.

Transtate Paving Co. of the Tri-Cities is the prime contractor on this \$1.25 million project. Bob Hilmes is the WSDOT Project Engineer.

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